

House Resolution 1149

By: Representatives England of the 108th, Benton of the 31st, Jamieson of the 28th, Shaw of the 176th, Burns of the 157th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing Rural Health Day; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is a nonprofit advocate for rural
4 health care consumers and the dedicated health professionals who serve rural Georgia and
5 encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 110 rural counties with over 1.6 million residents, but only one-half
7 as many physicians as urban Georgia, plus a continuing decline in the availability and quality
8 of health care facilities and professional services; and

9 WHEREAS, these areas have the highest cancer and cardiovascular mortality rates, infant
10 mortality, diabetes, children at risk for overweight and obesity, and the growing uninsured
11 population and elderly population with multiple diseases, far exceed their local health care
12 resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Development Council recognized that the limited availability
14 and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's distressed
15 economy and deter industry recruitment; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
17 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, and access to
18 capital for aging health care facilities.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and
21 recognize February 12, 2008, as Rural Health Day.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Rural Health
3 Association.